

Serving Berlin's English-speaking Catholic Community since 1957



Catholic Community

Member of the English-Speaking Mission

Mass: Fridays at 6 p.m. in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Sundays at 10 a.m. in the main Sanctuary

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Facebook: All Saints Catholic Community Berlin

Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 10:00-12:00

December 23rd, 2018 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings (Missal 794: Mic 5:1-4 • Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 • Heb 10:5-10 • Lk 1:39-45)

Welcome to our 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

- Lector: Jennifer Evans • Eucharistic Ministers: Johannes Ploog, Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: Heide Doblhofer • Designated collection: All Saints •

Pleasure is God's gift, not the forbidden fruit.

Rejoice! St. Paul commends this in his letter to the Christian community in Philippi (4.4-7): "*Brothers and sisters: rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again, rejoice.*" The word for rejoice in Latin is *gaudete*, so quite naturally this Sunday is called *Gaudete Sunday*. Why all this happiness and joy? Are we finally getting a break from somber and dull Advent?

Yes. But there is more to it than that. Remember that Advent is like a retreat, like a meditation time that the worldwide Church is making. In this third week we will consider our lives in the context of the great beauty God has put in us and around us.

Can we let God's beauty into our lives? God's gladness sings out joyfully at every instant, and his song is the earth, the galaxies, and the people. A line in Zephaniah (3.14-18) puts this in striking terms. The prophet actually says that the Lord "*will sing joyfully because of you, as one sings at festivals, he will dance with shouts of joy for you.*"

Have you ever in your life thought that God's might break into song because of you? Have you ever in your life thought that God's might dance with shouts of joy for you? *Because of you!* Have you ever allowed your idea of God expand that far?

There is this wonderful idea that creation could to be made out of melody: a melody God sings. How about using this for an insight: God's gladness sings out joyfully at every instant, and his song is the earth, the galaxies, the people, the plants and soaring hawks and encircling planets, droplets of dew and heavy black holes, youthful beauties, ancient wisdoms, and everything else that exists! In this image, we certainly are God's song.

Luke 3.10-18 has people in long rows, gathering to be baptized, expecting the Savior who is to come. Each group of them, the crowd, the tax collectors, the soldiers .. ask John the Baptist the question: "*Teacher, what should we do?*" "*Let your life sing,*" he seems to answer. Let your life be what it is: God's joyous, interleaved and always consonant melody. Then our life sounds outwards in deepest joy. God has given us permission to enjoy life and its pleasures. This truth too needs to be a central part of our religious teaching. Pleasure is God's gift, not the forbidden fruit.

A short question at the end of this homily: Could this be your Advent? Always be aware that our life is like a melody sung by God?

Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ

Cf http://liturgy.slu.edu/3AdvC121618/reflections_foley.html

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCOME! *Visiting for the first time?* Please introduce yourself and tell us where you are from at the end of Mass, so we can welcome you. Please join us for coffee and cake in the Community Hall!

Attendance on December 16th: 80

Collection: All Saints: € 188.17



Three Kings Day Celebration

We will have a special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass on **Sunday, January 6th**.

Did you know? - January the 6th is a special day in Mexico. Known as *El Dia de Reyes* (Three Kings Day), this holiday represents the height of the Christmas season. The date marks the culmination of the twelve days of Christmas and commemorates the three wise men who traveled from afar, bearing gifts for the infant baby Jesus. The children of Mexico in particular look forward to this holiday as traditionally, gifts are exchanged on this date, not on Christmas day.

Will you be the lucky one to find the special item in the very special cake? **If so, you get to be the King or Queen of the day!**

Clip out and put on your fridge or family board! Mark your calendars:

- December 24th Midnight Mass – Caroling begins at 9:30 p.m. with Mass at 10:00 p.m. Fr. Felber is our celebrant.
- December 30th - **Holy Mass at All Saints** at 10:00 a.m.
- January 1st – Holy Mass at St. Bernard's, Königin-Luise-Straße 33, 14195 Berlin, at 11:00 a.m.
- January 6th – Special Three Kings Day hospitality after Mass in the Fellowship Hall.

During Advent dates and times of events may change. Check for the latest "News" at the **All Saints website** (<http://www.all-saints-berlin.de/home.shtml>) or visit us on Facebook: *All Saints Catholic Community Berlin*



Holy Father's prayer intentions for January 2019

Evangelization: Evangelization – Young People: hat young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

Volunteers sought to become Eucharistic Ministers

Perhaps you have already served as a Eucharistic Minister in a previous parish or would like to explore becoming one.

The ESM will offer a class in English during January 2019. If you are interested please inquire in the office or speak with any of our Eucharistic Ministers.

TOMORROW – COME AND JOIN US!

December 24th, 9:30 p.m.: Christmas Carols

December 24th, 10:00 p.m.: Midnight Mass: Celebrant Fr. Wolfgang Felber SJ

Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Beate Hausmann, Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, • Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: TBA • Hospitality: NONE •

Designated collection: All Saints **December 30th, 10 am Mass at All Saints. Our Celebrant today is Fr. Wolfgang Felber, SJ**

- Lector: Rachel Rückeis • Eucharistic Ministers: Thomas Schmidt, Heide Doblhofer, Jennifer Evans •
- Greeter: Christopher Lusaka • Altar Servers: Konrad Giersdorf, Oshin Michael •
- Hospitality: TBD • Designated collection: All Saints •

Designated collections are for special purposes in the Archdiocese of Berlin and are transferred in full. **However, in agreement with the Archdiocese, All Saints receives no financial support, so we are completely dependent upon your donations.** Please continue to donate to All Saints by using the **WHITE ENVELOPES** stamped "ALL SAINTS FUND" and/or transferring your donation to the Pax-Bank account written below. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! • *Friends of All Saints e.V.*, IBAN: DE15 3706 0193 6001 6690 18, BIC: GENODED1PAX